

Base Briefs

ALS GRADUATES NEW LEADERS

The graduation banquet for Airman Leadership School Class 02-B is Feb. 8 at the Pacific Coast Club. A social hour begins at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. The attire is mess dress or semi-formal. For more information, call the ALS staff at 606-5595 by Feb. 6.

RECRUITING TEAM ARRIVES HERE

A Military Training Instructor recruiting team needs volunteers for duty at Lackland AFB. The team is here Feb. 13. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Michael Tierney who can be reached at 606-9815.

BASE LOOKS FOR AADD DRIVERS

Base officials have received the Airman Against Drunk Driving program. The goal of AADD is to reduce and eliminate alcohol-related incidents on and around Vandenberg. To volunteer for the program, attend the first meeting Jan. 28 at 3 p.m. in the Services Center. For more information, call Paige Ramos at 606-6070.

DEADLINE NEARS FOR SCHOLARSHIP

The deadline for the second annual Defense Commissary Agency/Fisher House Foundation Scholarships for Military Children Program is Feb. 5. Qualified sons and daughters of U.S. military ID-card holders may apply for the \$1,500 scholarships. For more information, go to web site www.commissaries.com.

ALS LOOKS FOR INSTRUCTOR

The Vandenberg Airman Leadership School needs a staff sergeant, staff sergeant select or technical sergeant to fill an available instructor position. The deadline for package submission is Feb. 1. A formal application is required. See index No. 6 on the Equal Plus listing for more details. Submit packages or direct any questions to Master Sgt. Jeff Sherrill at 606-5595.

CGO HOSTS LUNCHEON FEB. 13

The Company Grade Officers' Council holds a professional development luncheon at noon Feb. 13 in the Pacific Coast Club. Col. Suzanne Vautrinot, 14th Air Force chief of operations and 614th Space Operations Group commander is the guest speaker. The colonel is also director of the Aerospace Operations Center. For more information or tickets, call 1st Lt. Henry Heren at 605-1338.

BREAKERS CONTINUES FAMILY NIGHT

The 30th Services Squadron staff offers a weekly dinner at the Breakers Dining Facility every Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m. The dinner is open to all family members of people deployed in support of an overseas operation. For more information, call 606-5031.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1st CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Hawkman high-fives Staff Sgt. Carl Hinson, spacelift maintenance member during the 30th Operations Group team announcements Jan. 11. With GC less than four months away, the Hawks are 'pumped' to retain the Schriever Trophy.

Ops Group picks GC 2002 teams

BY STAFF SGT. ANDREW LEONHARD
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ The anticipation for Guardian Challenge 2002 grew Friday during team announcements for the 30th Operations Group at the Western Range Operations Control Center.

A rowdy and loud crowd filled the WROCC's auditorium to congratulate the Guardian Challenge 2002 spacelift operations, spacelift maintenance and helicopter team members.

The teams will pit their abilities against the command's top teams during GC 2002 May 5 to 10.

"It's an important day today," said Col. Mark Owen, 30th OG commander.

"The hard work and sweat has paid off as these competitors have won the honor to represent Team Vandenberg at GC."

The 12 team members and 10 instructors each got a loud welcome from the crowd and high fives from Vandenberg's mascot Hawkman.

Owen not only thanked the competitors but also the co-workers, supervisors and family members who have and will put up with the added work loads so the competitors can train for Guardian Challenge.

"GC is truly a full-body experience. It's a team event, through-

out Vandenberg," he said.

As Hawkman flexed his huge muscles, Owen proclaimed another message to Team V and their competition, "We are going to keep the Schriever here!"

The 2002 team members are:

SPACELIFT OPERATIONS TEAM
Capt. Ray Galik
Capt. Dee Morgan
1st Lt. Kris Barcomb
1st Lt. Kirk Morris
Staff Sgt. Marvin Banks
OPERATIONS TEAM INSTRUCTORS
Capt. Phil Franklin
Capt. Jim Gray
Capt. Ken Jackson
Capt. Scott Koopman

Master Sgt. Rocky Belmontes

SPACELIFT MAINTENANCE TEAM
Tech. Sgt. Tim Moore
Staff Sgt. Carl Hinson
Staff Sgt. Kevin Tadder

SPACELIFT MAINTENANCE TEAM INSTRUCTORS

Tech. Sgt. Scott Benson
Tech. Sgt. Bill Gardner
Staff Sgt. Mark Masters
Staff Sgt. Chuck Spice
HELICOPTER FLIGHT
Capt. Eric Ecker
1st Lt. James Blanchard
Staff Sgt. Mario Kuhn
Matt Presnell

HELICOPTER FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR
Capt. Matt Horin

Mobile home park closes March 9



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. MARITZA FERNANDEZ

Workers from a Nipomo-based moving company discuss procedures to move Staff Sgt. Maritza Fernando's trailer from the Lake Canyon Mobile Home Park here. Park residents have until March 9 to move their trailers off base.

42 homes still remain at Lake Canyon site

BY STAFF SGT. REBECCA BONILLA
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ With only six weeks remaining for Vandenberg's Lake Canyon Mobile Home Park, 42 homes remain in their spaces as the park prepares to close March 9. Half of those homes are now in the process of being moved.

Since base officials announced the park's closure in October 1998, more than 130 residents have either moved into houses on main base, permanently changed stations, separated or retired, removing their mobile homes as they departed.

According to base officials, the decision to close one of the last remaining parks in Air Force Space Command was based on a combination of quality of life and financial concerns.

Current Air Force guidelines do not allow mobile homes to be included in the base's housing community plan.

That classification leads to a financial problem for the base civil engineers responsible for maintaining the park.

Road repairs and upgrades to the electrical system and gas and utility lines throughout the park would cost more than \$1.5 million to bring the park up to acceptable environmental and infrastructure

standards.

The Air Staff focuses the limited family housing funds that are available on permanent dwellings.

"We're fortunate here at Vandenberg to have very nice base housing designed to enhance the quality of life for our active-duty members and their families," said Col. Steven Robinson, 30th Support Group commander. "We have homes available for those remaining mobile home park residents who want to take advantage of an opportunity that simply isn't available at most other bases."

Residents had a number of options to choose from when deciding how to vacate their mobile home park spaces, said Melvin Vudragovich, traffic management officer.

A few of the options included: selling the mobile home to someone who would remove it from the park. The military family could then move, at government expense, into main base housing or into the local area.

They could also retain the mobile home as a primary residence, find a space for it within 50 miles of the base and have it moved there at government expense. So far, one owner has been able to exercise this option, according to the housing office. If the member decides at a later date to move into base housing, with the housing office's approval, the government will also pay for that move, Vudragovich said.

See HOME Page 4

Base readies for tax season

BY STAFF SGT. ANDREW LEONHARD
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Vandenberg's tax office is gearing up for the 2002 tax season.

Ann Fox, Vandenberg tax representative, said there are a few subtle changes to last year's laws. What will not change, she said, is the traditional system of support provided at Vandenberg.

This service is provided free of charge to all active duty, retired military and their dependents.

Air Force legal offices, in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service and volunteers from the military community set up tax centers annually and recruit and train volunteer unit tax advisers, providing bluesuiters with a convenient process for filing their yearly returns.

"The Air Force tax program saved the military community more than \$12 million in tax preparation fees in 2001," said Capt. Jennifer Hyzer, tax program manager for the Air Force Legal Assistance Division at the Pentagon.

"The quality of life for our people is greatly enhanced by the services of volunteers at bases around the world, and such initiatives as electronic filing."

See TAX Page 4

Senior leaders: Put survey at top of 'to do' list

BY TECH. SGT. MARK KINKADE
Air Force Print News

■ SAN ANTONIO — Air Force leaders want Air Force people to speak their minds in the 2002 Chief of Staff Organizational Climate survey, available online Jan. 22 to March 8.

The survey, offered every two years, is designed to gauge how people feel about leadership, communication, supervision, training, job satisfaction and other aspects of Air Force organizations.

The 1997 survey gathered more than 200,000 responses and resulted in a number of quality-of-life and organization changes, survey officials said. The 1999 survey continued the process.

"The '99 (survey) put these types of issues into the cross hairs at every level of our Air Force, from the Pentagon, through the major commands and on down to the unit level," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Fredrick J. Finch. "With data like this, we can make this great Air Force of ours better yet. We'll 'shape tomorrow' for the Air Force, our people and our families."

Senior leaders want a stronger turnout for this year's survey, saying it gives Air Force people an opportunity to "speak today, shape tomorrow."

"Sustaining the world's pre-eminent air and space force requires excellence in the work environment," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper. "This survey will provide valuable information to all Air Force leaders to achieve that goal."

As the Air Force strives to shape itself for the 21st century, the input from the survey will be a crucial tool, said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche.

This issue of the



Also view The Space & Missile Times at http://www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/news/space_times/index.html



To the Colors!
Airmen Leadership class School raises the red, white and blue at Los Padres School. See Page 2.



Exercise, exercise, exercise. Base tests response during gas station explosion scenario Wednesday. See Page 3.

Weekend forecast
Increasing clouds with chance of thunderstorms Sunday.

Low/High
32/62

For a full VAFB weather report visit www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather/index.html

To the colors

Senior Airman Jason Effron (right), 30th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Senior Airman Shannon Doer, 30th Operations Support Squadron, both of Airman Leadership School Class 02-B, raise the U.S. flag during a ceremony at Los Padres Elementary School. All 32 members of the ALS class and four instructors participated in the monthly ceremony held at the school.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

God Bless America

By Erin Matchett

*Voices scream when they find out what has been done,
Declaring war is not at all fun.
What happened rocked our world,
Families sit together, sad and curled.

New York today, rubble tomorrow,
How can America deal with such sorrow?
People all over starting to flee,
This disaster means so much to me.*

*Airports shut down, the whole world stops,
Dear lives were lost, firemen, rescuers and even cops.
Oh God, help us all pull together,
God bless America forever, forever.*

Editor's Note: The author of this poem is the 11-year-old niece of Master Sgt. Douglas Voigt, 576th Flight Test Squadron.

Commander's Action line



Col. Robert M. Worley II
Commander,
30th Space Wing

Mission success is our top priority, and the talented men and women of Team Vandenberg get it done with excellence. Key to the effectiveness of any great team is good communication. The 30th Space Wing Commander's Action Line is your direct communication link to me. It provides an avenue for you to voice your concerns, share constructive ideas, or give your Vandenberg team-mates a pat on the back. I appreciate your input, and I am personally involved in every

response. While the Commander's Action Line is a great way to communicate, don't forget there are many other avenues to get answers to your questions including your chain of command, first sergeants, base services officials, and many other base professionals. Thanks for helping to make Vandenberg such a great place to work and live. When calling the action line, please leave your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

Action line 606-7850

or e-mail your message to actionline@vandenberg.af.mil

EMERGENCY.....	911
Poison control.....	800-876-4766
Clinic appointments.....	606-2273
Information.....	411
After-hours urgent care.....	888-252-3299
TRICARE services.....	800-242-6788
Health Care Information Line.....	800-611-2883
Law enforcement.....	606-3911
Housing maintenance.....	734-5586
Child Development Center.....	606-1555
Youth Center	606-2152
MPF customer service.....	606-7756
Visitor control center.....	606-7662
Chapel Office.....	606-5573
Chaplain (after hours).....	606-9961
Red Cross (duty hours)	606-1855
Red Cross (after hours).....	800-660-4272
EOD (duty hours).....	605-1375
Military Pay.....	606-4606



Heard a rumor? Get the facts.

During crises or emergencies, call the Vandenberg rumor control line at 606-1857.

Military image goes beyond uniform wear

By TECH. SGT. GINGER SCHREITMUELLER
Air Force Special Operations Command
Public Affairs

... she yelled after them, "Apparently you don't mind serving your country, but lending a hand is another story."

they had just returned from "over there" and were anxious to be with

family. No matter what the underlying need for speed was, those three men were in a hurry (to get off the airplane). Unfortunately for them, getting the jump on the seatbelt light didn't make the egress line move any faster. The slow down was due to the new parents seated in the first row of the airplane. Packed to the limit with a diaper bags, car seat and stroller, they were loaded down and moving slowly. The baby, all dressed in her holiday finest, couldn't have been more than 2 months old. Mom and dad were making their first trip on a plane with their child and had packed for every imaginable disaster en route. The young men had managed to bully their way through the plane's aisles, but were now bogged down by the parents. The sound of their

exasperated sighs could be heard throughout the plane. Led by the young parents, the passengers walked toward the terminal. Reaching the stairs to go up, the young men saw their chance. They broke right and took the stairs with full force, nearly knocking over the mom dragging along the tons of baby accessories. Reaching the first landing, they bolted past the dad who was making the first trip up the stairs with stroller and baby in tow. As I neared the mom, she yelled after them, "Apparently you don't mind serving your country, but lending a hand is another story. Don't they teach common courtesy in the military?" I apologized for their behavior and offered to lend a hand. She hesitated, but I told her I remember

my first airplane flight with my son. "He was about 6 months old and we traveled from Texas to Guam. I had four times the stuff you have now, and no one helped. I remember the challenge of traveling, especially with a newborn." She thanked me as I easily grabbed the diaper bag, small suitcase and car seat. Walking beside me she went on and on about how rude those "military kids" were. At the top of the stairs, the parents thanked me for the assistance adding they wondered why military people were so rude. I put the baby gear down and extended my hand, apologizing for the behavior of those three young men. "I hope you don't judge all military people by the poor example of some. I would never have walked past without offering to help. I

understand what it's like to travel with a little one, and my parents raised me a little better than that," I said. I started to walk away, then turned back. "By the way, I'm a tech sergeant in the United States Air Force, and I hope that's the image you'll remember about military people. Have a great trip and a wonderful holiday showing off the new baby." Simple courtesy. It's not something unique to the military or the civilian communities. Whether in or out of uniform, things you say and do directly reflect on who you are. Keep in mind, even out of uniform people can often tell by your dress and appearance that you are a member of the United States Armed Forces. Make sure whatever you do or say brings credit to the uniform you wear.



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Exercise, exercise, exercise



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JANICE CANNON



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEVE SCHESTER

(Above) On-scene commander Dan Ardoin, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department, contacts disaster response agencies on Vandenberg in support of a mass casualty exercise Wednesday. (Left) Staff Sgt. Adam Highfill, 30th Range Squadron, acts hysterical while trying to get medical attention for his mock burns during the exercise. The base responded to a large explosion at the base gas station that injured and killed many active-duty members in the mass casualty exercise.



Base congratulates civilian promotees

■ Team Vandenberg’s December and January civilian promotions.		
<u>GS-05</u>		
Rodney Rocero	30 th Medical Operations Squadron	Grant Gallagher
<u>GS-07</u>		30 th Civil Engineer Squadron
Noralyn Smith	30 th Mission Support Squadron	<u>WG-11</u>
<u>GS-09</u>		Donald Brinkmeier
Marta Ledesma	30 th MSS	Kevin Murphy
Maria Palmer	30 th Communications Squadron	Ogden Air Logistics Center
<u>GS-11</u>		Ogden ALC
Myrna Cruz	30 th Comptroller Squadron	<u>GS-12</u>
		Michael Dunkkelberger
		James Manning
		30 th Training Squadron
		<u>GS-13</u>
		392 nd Training Squadron
		<u>GS-14</u>
		30 th CS
		Yi-teh Wang
		<u>GS-14</u>
		Peter Wroblewski
		381 st Training Group

Base announces fourth quarter award winners

- Team Vandenberg recognized its best and brightest during the quarterly awards luncheon at the Pacific Coast Club Jan. 17.
- The Team Vandenberg winners received savings bonds and a variety of gifts from local communities.
- All winners received an award plaque commemorating their achievement. Team Vandenberg’s annual awards banquet is Feb. 12 at the Pacific Coast Club.
- ASSOCIATE UNIT AIRMAN OF THE QUARTER
Airman 1st Class **Danny Williams Jr.**
533rd Training Squadron
- 30TH SPACE WING AIRMAN OF THE QUARTER
Senior Airman **Amy Blount**
2nd Space Launch Squadron
- TEAM VANDENBERG AIRMAN OF THE QUARTER
Senior Airman **Blount**
2nd SLS
- ASSOCIATE UNIT NCO OF THE QUARTER
Staff Sgt. **Richard Duncan**
532nd Training Squadron
- 30TH SPACE WING NCO OF THE QUARTER
Tech. Sgt. **Brian Davis**
30th Civil Engineer Squadron
- TEAM VANDENBERG NCO OF THE QUARTER
Staff Sgt. **Duncan**
532nd TRS
- ASSOCIATE UNIT SNCO OF THE QUARTER
Master Sgt. **Benjamin Caro Jr.**
533rd TRS
- 30TH SPACE WING SNCO OF THE QUARTER
Master Sgt. **Ben Rosen**
2nd SLS
- TEAM VANDENBERG SNCO OF THE QUARTER
- Master Sgt. **Caro**
533rd TRS
- ASSOCIATE UNIT CGO OF THE QUARTER
Capt. **Tommy L. Ray**
392nd Training Squadron
- 30TH SPACE WING CGO OF THE QUARTER
1st Lt. **Jason Glynn**
30th CES
- TEAM VANDENBERG CGO OF THE QUARTER
1st Lt. **Glynn**
30th CES
- BASE HONOR GUARD ROOKIE OF THE QUARTER
Senior Airman **Lester Frye**
576th Flight Test Squadron
- BASE HONOR GUARD AIRMAN OF THE QUARTER
Airman 1st Class **Nimfa Mananggit**
30th Transportation Squadron
- BASE HONOR GUARD NCO OF THE QUARTER
Tech. Sgt. **Marcia Seantlebury-Hall**
30th Medical Support Squadron
- CIVILIAN CATEGORY 1
Glenda Rose
30th Comptroller Squadron
- CIVILIAN CATEGORY 2
Tymme Mitchell
30th Space Wing
- ACTIVE DUTY/DOD CIVILIAN VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER
Tech. Sgt. **Vincent Travali**
381st Training Support Squadron
- MILITARY FAMILY MEMBER VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER
Patricia Gehres
Joint Retirees Office



PHOTO BY CAPT. KRISTI BECKMAN

People from the 86th Expeditionary Contingency Response Group worked together to build a tent city at Manas International Airport in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Tents in Kyrgyzstan mean fixed presence

By CAPT. KRISTI BECKMAN
376th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

■ **BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan** — The recent completion of the first 26 tents here has established a fixed Air Force presence in Kyrgyzstan to help support Operation Enduring Freedom.

Col. Billy Montgomery, commander of the 86th Expeditionary Contingency Response Group, accepted the symbolic key to the new tent city, which is located at Manas International Airport, officially marking the opening of the facility Jan 12.

Most people from the 86th ECRG deployed here from their home unit, the 86th Contingency Response Group, based at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Calling the feat a team, rather than an individual goal, Montgomery said it was personally satisfying for the ECRG because “we know how far we’ve come in four weeks since we hit the ground. This is a culmination of our efforts.”

“It took a team effort,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Rumsey, chief civil engineer for the ECRG. “In about 10 days, 20 civil engineers built 26 tents, but we couldn’t have done it without the rest of the team. Everyone pitched

in to help.”

Master Sgt. Scott Molzof, a structural craftsman with the ECRG, said he appreciated the help from everyone who pitched in to get the job done.

“We didn’t have enough people here initially, so the help we received from everyone was great,” he said.

Completion of the first 26 tents is only the beginning, Rumsey said.

“We will build 200 to 300 tents, depending on the size of the coalition force to base here,” he said.

Each tent will house 10 people. Also within the complex are a kitchen, shower and shaving area, a chapel tent, and an Army and Air Force Exchange Service tent. A recreation tent is also planned.

“Reaching this milestone is one of many obvious tangible things that show how dedicated the men and women are to accomplishing the mission here,” said Brig. Gen. Chris Kelly, the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing commander. “This is a key milestone in our plans for projecting combat power out of Manas International Airport.” (Courtesy of U.S. Air Force Print News)

Team Vandenberg Spotlight



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Name: Grant “JJ” Gallagher
Assignment: Vandenberg Fire Department, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron
Duty title: Chief of Operations
Hometown: Detroit, Mich.
Family: Married, Beth; two children, Erin and John
Time on Vandenberg: Since June 1973
Time in fire service: 29 years
Why he loves his job: I always wanted to be a firefighter. It was a calling for me. I have seen and done many exciting things at Vandenberg during my career. Our department is one big family, which not only serves the Vandenberg and surrounding communities, but directly supports a space program that touches the citizens of the world and secures America’s technological leadership.
Supervisor’s comments: “JJ possesses the right balance of people and duty, said Fire Chief Mark Farias. “He brings to the table a tremendous amount of ability and a long list of accomplishments and professional credentials. One of the biggest challenges facing fire chiefs is putting the right people in the right job, and JJ Gallagher is that right choice to lead his shift in growth, development and public service.”



Around the Air Force

Air Force people can receive corrective eye surgeries

By TECH. SGT. RICHARD SEARLES
Office of the Surgeon General
Public Affairs

■WASHINGTON—Lt. Gen. Paul K. Carlton Jr., Air Force surgeon general, signed a memorandum recently allowing Air Force people who are designated as “priority 2” in the “Warfighter” Photorefractive Keratectomy Program to receive the procedure at one of the Air Force’s laser centers.

People who fall into category 2 include active-duty people whose routine military duties require the wear of night-vision goggles, eye protection or respiratory protection. It does not include those who are only required to wear nuclear, biological and chemical masks during deployment.

“Security forces, firefighters, and bioengineers are just a few of the people who are now eligible for the elective eye surgery,” said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Kimberly Slawinski, chief consultant for surgical services.

About 40 percent of today’s Air Force people require corrective lenses to perform their jobs, Slawinski said.

“Reducing our warfighters’ dependence on corrective lenses will enhance the Air Force’s readiness,” she said. “Glasses and contact lenses can be an operational disadvantage. PRK can enhance performance and safety in military duties. However, it is not a medical benefit and there is no requirement for any member to obtain PRK.”

Prior to the signing of the memorandum, only people identified as aviation and special duty, or “priority 1,” qualified for the free PRK surgery at the laser centers.

With PRK, there is a small risk of not meeting relevant vision standards after the surgery, Slawinski said. This could result in permanent disqualification from certain career fields or even continued military service.

“The estimated risk is under 1 percent,” Slawinski said. “The vision complication and poor-quality rate increases as the degree of nearsightedness and astigmatism

increases; therefore, disqualification rates may be higher for those individuals.”

Access to treatment at Air Force laser centers is dependent on the condition of the person’s eye and will be prioritized based upon the operational impact of corrective lenses in the performance of military duties.

The Air Force laser centers are located at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas; Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; and the Air Force Academy, Colo. Two other centers are expected to open this fiscal year at Keesler AFB, Miss., and Travis AFB, Calif.

As of Jan. 2, the three operational laser centers had performed more than 4,000 procedures.

“The laser centers are doing extremely well, considering they are not operating at full capacity yet,” Slawinski said. “Once all the centers are up and running at full capacity, we anticipate being able to conduct approximately 13,000 procedures per year.”

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

U.S. Central Command relaxes abaya rule

By JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

■WASHINGTON—U.S. Central Command officials relaxed a requirement that female servicemembers stationed in Saudi

Arabia wear the Muslim abaya while off base in civilian clothes. About 1,000 American military women are affected by the change.

Command officials, however, still “strongly advise” female servicemembers to wear the abaya, a long, black robe that covers the head and body. Muslim women are required by the Quran to wear the abaya.

The requirement was put in place as a force protection measure, command officials said.

Wearing the abaya allows American women to blend in with the population better and shows American cultural sensitivity. It also helps women avoid the attention of the Saudi “religious police,” officials said.

Men are also affected by dress rules. Off base, they are required to wear long-sleeved, collared shirts and slacks. T-shirts and shorts are not allowed. While conducting official business, all personnel are authorized to wear their uniforms.

Other rules remain in place. Saudi law forbids women from driving in the kingdom, and American women are not allowed to drive off base.

Islam dictates a total way of life, State Department officials said. The Quran prescribes the behavior for individuals and society, codifying law, family relations, business etiquette, dress, food, personal hygiene, and more. Muslims believe in a family-centered way of life, including a protected

role for women and clear limits on their participation in public life.

The issue has received a lot of attention because of a lawsuit brought by Lt. Col. Martha McSally against Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. The A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot objected to having to wear the abaya off base. She contended the rule to wear the traditional Muslim abaya is a violation of her religious rights and gender discrimination.

McSally’s attorney, John Whitehead, said he is pleased with the command’s decision, but he will wait to see how it is implemented.

“The rule says they ‘strongly urge’ women to wear the abaya,” Whitehead said. “The question is what does ‘strongly urge’ mean?”

Three other policies need to be addressed, Whitehead said. McSally also objected to not being able to drive, having to ride only in the rear of vehicles and having to be escorted by men while off base.

Command officials said they are researching those other policy aspects and expect to have some answers in a few days. *(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)*

Vaccine ban for pregnant servicewomen strengthened

■PENTAGON—Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs William Winkenwerder issued

policy guidance Jan. 17 that reiterates and strengthens a long-standing Defense Department policy to avoid immunization of servicewomen during pregnancy.

This action was taken because of issues raised about preliminary data from a Naval Health Research Center Study of women who received the anthrax vaccine.

“Although these study results are preliminary and there are significant concerns about the database that require further investigation before any conclusions can be made, we are taking these steps to reaffirm our existing policies,” Winkenwerder said.

The preliminary data, which has not been scientifically peer reviewed and will require further validation, identified a possible relationship between maternal anthrax vaccination in the first trimester and higher odds of birth defects.

Because the data supporting the study showed that a number of women might have received the anthrax vaccine beyond the first trimester, study data is now being re-validated. The peer-review publication process usually takes several months. The final report will be available then.

At DOD request, the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will issue a report in January in its Morbidity and Mortality Report, which can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/>, that will provide further details of the study. *(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)*



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. MARITZA FERNANDEZ

A moving company employee disconnects utilities for a mobile home at Lake Canyon park. Residents can move their home at government expense.

HOME: Government will pay for main base, off-base in local area moves

From Page 1

Residents could pay to scrap the mobile home if it is old and not road worthy. The resident may then move, at government expense, into main base housing, off-base in the local area, to their home of record if they are separating or to their home of selection if they are retiring.

One base resident, Staff Sgt. Joe Richard, 576th Flight Test Squadron, chose option No. 1 and is extremely happy with the results.

Richard and his wife, Jennifer, along with their two daughters, Savannah and Madison, moved into a new house on main base in July where Richard said, “We love it.”

The Richards sold their mobile home to a family who paid a local moving company to move the home to a new space off base. The Richards then completed a do-it-yourself move and were reimbursed

by the government for their expenses.

Richard said one of best things about being on the main base is the camaraderie he and his family enjoy with their new neighbors.

“We decided to go out and meet our neighbors and it’s been really terrific,” said the 5-year Vandenberg resident. “Everyone is very friendly so we’re definitely enjoying our new neighborhood.”

“Another perk of on-base living is that home repairs are just a phone call away,” he said. “When you own your own home, as we did with the mobile home, you have to fix everything yourself.”

Vandenberg’s Housing Management and Traffic Management offices are available to assist base members with their transitions and to help make those transitions as smooth as possible.

TAX: More than 129,000 tax returns were electronically filed in 2001

From Page 1

Electronic filing improves the quality-of-life for people enabling them to receive their income tax refunds in a fraction of the time it takes to process a paper return, all without paying an electronic filing fee, Hyzer said.

More than 129,000 federal income tax returns were electronically filed in 2001, said Hyzer.

A few changes in the tax law may affect the returns of Air Force people in 2002. Each tax bracket over 15 percent has been cut by 0.5 percent. The new 2001 rates for the top four tax rates will be 39.1 percent, 35.5 percent, 30.5 percent, and 27.5 percent. The lower rates — 10 percent and 15 percent — will not change. Most Air Force people fall in the 15- and 27.5-percent tax brackets, Hyzer said.

Additionally, first-time filers and those who did not owe any taxes for 2000 will receive a rate reduction credit on their 2001 returns. Hyzer said many taxpayers have already taken advantage of the credit, in the form of a refund mailed out last year.

Finally, the tax credit for each child younger than 17 increases from \$500 to \$600 this year. The maximum income amount to qualify for the credit will remain the same — \$110,000 for married couples. People can contact their local base legal office for more information on this year’s tax laws, and for the locations of the nearest Air Force tax center.

Fox reminds Team V that this year the tax office is offering electronic filing of Federal and state returns.

To file the state return electronically, both the Federal and state returns must be transmitted at the same time, she said. That means people can get their refunds about 10 weeks sooner, she said. Further, refunds can be deposited directly into checking or saving accounts in as little as ten days.

For free tax preparation and filing, contact a unit tax representative or base tax office at 605-3668. The tax office is located in the 30th Space Wing Headquarters Bldg. 10577 room C-114. *(Air Force Print News contributed to this article.)*

Community Calendar

EVENTS

25 FRI Outdoor Recreation needs **Vandenberg Whitewater Rafting Team guide volunteers.** Team guides must be adventurous, fun-loving, hardworking and outdoors oriented. They're responsible for planning, logistics, guiding and client safety during trips to the Kern River in the southern Sierra Mountains. Guide positions are limited and no experience is necessary. After passing a moderate physical fitness test, new guides receive all required training. Volunteers must be over the age of 21 and be active-duty, Guard, Reserve, DoD civilian or a dependent. The team's first meeting will be in early February at a date to be determined. Those interested should call Staff Sgt. Jeff Martineau at 605-7617.

Fourteenth Air Force Cookbooks "**What Flying Tigers Eat ...**" are packed with more than 200 recipes by the Flying Tigers. The hardcover, three-ring binders cost \$11 per copy. Call Susan Haury at 733-0897 to place an order.

The **Vandenberg Spouses' Club** needs crafters interested in donating a sample of their work to be auctioned at the VSC's annual scholarship fundraising event. For more information, call Lynn Galik at 734-0236.

26 SAT The Vandenberg Chapter of the Knight's of Columbus holds their **annual free-throw competition** from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Fitness Center, Bldg. 9005. All children ages 10 to 14 years old are eligible to enter the competition. Winners compete at the district level in February at the Abel Maldonado Youth Center in Santa Maria. Participants must arrive at the gym by 12:45 p.m. to register. For more information, call Capt. Walter Daniels at 606-3844 or 734-2619.

Visitors can enjoy **walking tours of historic downtown Santa Barbara** every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon, weather permitting. Covering four square blocks, the tour takes guests through historic Spanish downtown. For more information, call (805) 965-6407.

28 MON A **job placement expert provides transition information** for Vandenberg officers, NCOs and spouses Jan. 28 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the 381st Training Group auditorium. Dick Crampton, deputy director of the Retired Officers Association officer placement section will introduce the audience to the realities of the competition in the civilian job market, the perception employers have of military personnel, a plan for job searching, tips for resume strengthening, networking plans and more. for more information, call Sunny Park at 605-0134.

29 TUE **Airmen Against Drunk Driving** meets Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the Breakers Dining Facility. The goal of AADD is to reduce and eliminate alcohol-related incidents on and around Vandenberg. Call Paige Ramos at 606-6070 with questions.

18 FRI The Inner Light Community Gospel **teaches the public to sing gospel** at a Black History Month gospel workshop and concert. The event takes place at Goleta Presbyterian Church Feb. 1 and 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. and Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Attendees perform a concert Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara. For more

Make 'em shine



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Two-year-old Summer Llano brushes her teeth after lunch at Vandenberg's Child Development Center as the base dental clinic prepares for Children's Dental Health Month in February. The

clinic staff will visit the CDC Feb. 20 at 9 a.m. to show children the proper way to brush and to pass out dental hygiene equipment. The staff will also be at the base library Feb. 21 from 10 to 11 a.m.

3 SUN Base **Christian singles enjoy life-giving fellowship** at the Vandenberg AFB Singles Christian Fellowship. The group encourages singles in their walk with the Lord. Open, guided discussions tackle topics that Christian singles face in today's world. Join the group for fun, food and fellowship. The group hosts a **Break-through Dinner** at the Chapel 1 Annex Feb. 3 at 5 p.m. To make a reservation, call 606-5773 by Jan. 28.

Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Charles Baldwin, deputy chief of the Air Force Chaplain Service, speaks at this year's **National Prayer Luncheon** held Feb. 4 at 11:30 a.m. in the Pacific Coast Club. The general will speak on, "Bubbles, Blackberries and Bedtime Prayers (Tools for Tackling Terrorism)." The U.S. Air Force Academy Praise Team also performs for the event. Cost is \$6 per person. To attend, purchase tickets by Tuesday from unit first sergeants or at Chapel 1 by Wednesday. For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) Mike Husfelt at 606-5773.

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7 THU **Natural Wonders – Adventures for Children** teaches parents and children to make Valentine's nature crafts during a workshop Feb. 7 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Arroyo Room of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Children must be ages 5 through 10 years old. Cost is \$12 per pair and \$5 for additional children.

9 SAT The **Carpinteria Girls' Sports Fair** provides skills clinics and activities Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to noon at Girls Incorporated of Carpinteria located at 5315 Foothill Rd. The fair offers golf, basketball, soccer and volleyball skills coaching to girls in grades K through 6. For more information, call (805) 569-7144.

15 FRI Beginning Feb. 15, Lompoc Civic Theatre presents "**Mornings at Seven.**" Performances of this family comedy by Paul Osborn start at 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays and at 2 p.m. Sundays. Call 735-2281 for tickets.

CLASSES

25 FRI Beginning today, the Health and Wellness Center offers **T.G.I.F. Lunchtime Relaxation** every Friday at 12:30 p.m. in the HAWC. Linda Bastine guides participants through various exercises for mind relaxation. By relaxing the mind, the body also benefits. This is one of many ways to manage stress. No registration is required. For more information, call Linda Bastine at 606-9958.

The Family Support Center offers a **CAL-VET/VA home loan class** today from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the FSC. The Veteran's Home Loan Guaranty is one of the major Veteran's benefits. The program benefits service members, retirees, reservists and unmarried surviving spouses who are purchasing or refinancing their homes, townhouses, condominiums and mobile homes. The class teaches the basic CAL-VET/VA home loan process and potential pitfalls.

The **Sensible Weigh** is a 90-minute class instructed by the HAWC's exercise physiologist. People learn to identify principles for safe weight loss and weight control. Other topics include reading food labels, counting fat grams, and incorporating the USDA food pyramid into a healthy eating lifestyle. Classes run for four weeks. To sign up, call the HAWC at 606-2221.

MEETINGS

30 WED The **Top Life Dorm Council** meets Wednesday at 3 p.m. in the Pacific Coast

Club. For more information, call Airman 1st Class Chaunte' Shepherd at 606-6526.

31 THU The **Vandenberg Bass Club** meets Thursday at 5 p.m. in the Outdoor Recreation Center. The club offers tournaments, monthly meetings and some of the best anglers the base has to offer.

13 WED The **National Society of Military Widows, Central Coast Chapter 44** meets the second Wednesday of every month. The next meeting is Feb. 13. Widowers are also welcome. For more information, call 606-5474.

SPORTS

25 FRI A **racquetball tournament** starts today at noon in the fitness center. All base members may compete. Register at the gym.

The Vandenberg Youth Center's **youth baseball season** is right around the corner. Any player with base access who is between 5 and 13 years old is eligible to play. Players receive a new uniform, a picture packet and a trophy for participating. Registration is \$45 for Youth Center members and \$50 for non-members. Teams play all games on base. The youth sports office is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit the Youth Center to sign up or call 606-2152 for more information.

26 SAT The Village Hills Little League welcomes Vandenberg's children, ages 6 to 12 years old, for **Little League baseball sign ups** at the following locations:

- ♦ Cabrillo High School gym, the Village Shopping Center and the Vandenberg Exchange, Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon
- ♦ Buena Vista and Los Padres Elementary Schools, Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m.

CHAPEL NOTES

Catholic Worship Services

- ♦ Saturday at 5 p.m. in Chapel 2.
- ♦ Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in Chapel 1.
- ♦ Daily Mass is Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. in Chapel 2.
- ♦ Catholic religious education is Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in the religious education building.
- ♦ Confirmation is Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the religious education administration building.
- ♦ Youth confirmation is Sundays at 6 p.m. in the religious education administration building.

Protestant Worship Services

- ♦ Contemporary Service is Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in Chapel 2.
- ♦ Traditional service is Sunday at 11:15 a.m. in Chapel 1.
- ♦ Gospel service is Sunday at 11:30 a.m. in Chapel 2.
- ♦ Sunday School meets at 10 a.m. in the religious education classrooms behind the child development center. To join this ministry, call Jill Hembroff at 606-5773.

AT THE MOVIES

The theater is closed today and Saturday.

Sunday Vanilla Sky

Starring Tom Cruise and Penelope Cruz.

After his ex-girlfriend Julie drives her car into a tree, David survives, but with his face horribly disfigured. Soon, however, his luck changes. Sofia declares her love for him and the doctors are suddenly able to rebuild his face. But strange and horrible things begin to happen and he starts to realize that his life has taken a turn beyond his control. Rated R.

Feb. 1 The Majestic

Starring Jim Carey and Martin Landau.

Set in 1951, a blacklisted writer, accused of being a Communist, loses his memory in a car accident and ends up with a new life in a small town, mistaken as a soldier who died in World War II, the son of the owner of the local movie theater. Rated PG.

Feb. 2 Ocean's Eleven

Starring George Clooney and Matt Damon.

Dapper Danny Ocean is a man of action. Less than 24 hours into his parole from a New Jersey penitentiary, he is already rolling out his next plan. Following three new rules: don't hurt anyone, don't steal from anyone who doesn't deserve it, and play the game like you've got nothing to lose, he orchestrates the most sophisticated, elaborate casino heist in history. Rated PG-13.

All movies start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

S 30th Services



BOWLING
CENTER

Saturday!

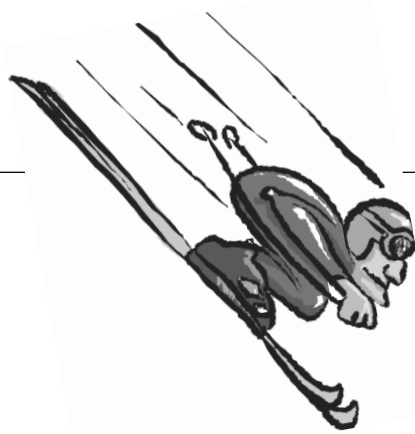
Check in
at
5:30 p.m.,
bowl
at
6 p.m.

**5-GAME
MARATHON**
Men's and Women's Divisions

There will not be a stepladder final.

Come and join the fun!

Call 734-1310 for more information.



NEWS

Join us for...

Sunday Brunch

at the
PACIFIC COAST CLUB

**Sunday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

\$13⁹⁵ Adults
(Club Members \$11.95)

Children age 4-12
75¢ per year.
Children under
4 years FREE!



Reservations not required, but highly recommended!

For more information, call 606-3330.

V.I.T.T.

Vandenberg Leisure Tours



*Glory
of
Easter*

March 24

Crystal Cathedral

7:30 p.m. performance

\$65 per person, center balcony seating.

Transportation by luxury restroom-equipped motorcoach. For more information, call 606-7976.

★★★★★★★★

**PRICE IS RIGHT
TV Taping**

★★★★★★★★

March 21

\$40 per person

Must be 18 years old with two forms of ID.

Transportation by luxury restroom-equipped motorcoach. For more information, call 606-7976.

GOLF

WEDNESDAY -

Ladies Priority, 8:32 to 9:04 a.m.

YOUTH CENTER

TWIRLING CLASSES -

Ages 4 and up, combine with Lompoc classes to march in local parades. Cost: \$29 (\$24 for youth center members) for a six-week session. Classes instructed by Nickie Rains. Come by the Youth Center to register or call 606-2152 for more information.

BOWLING

BREAKFAST

is served at the Bowling Center from 6:30 to 10 a.m. every Monday through Friday, except holidays.

THUNDER ALLEY with ROCK 300

Thursday through Saturday nights. Thursdays, families can bowl from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday hours are 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. and Saturday 9 p.m. to noon. Cost: Thursday, \$6 for all bowlers; Friday and Saturday, \$8 for adults and \$6 for youth (with Youth Center ID) and includes all equipment. Music on request Friday and Saturday. Come on out for the best 'glow and bowl' program around!

FITNESS

MONDAY -

Morning Abs, 7:05 to 7:20 a.m.

Location: Basketball Court

TUESDAY -

Woman on Weights, 7 to 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY -

Morning Madness Run with Brian
6:30 a.m. Distance: 1 mile.

THURSDAY -

Dietitian provides information
on food portions/sizes, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information on these programs,
call 606-3834.

Friday - Pacific Coast Club

You can Be a Star!

**Karaoke
Night**

in the
O' Lounge

6-10 p.m.



**90's
Night**

in the **Hawk's Nest**
9 p.m.-2 a.m.

VAFB Youth Sports SIGN-UPS



Baseball
BOYS & GIRLS

Ages 5-13

Registrations:

continuing through Feb. 22

Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. 5 p.m.
at the Youth Center

Cost: \$50 (\$45 with Y/C membership)
Skills Day: Baseball, Feb. 23.

Softball
GIRLS

Ages 8 to 16

Registrations:

continuing through Feb. 23

Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
at the Youth Center

Cost: \$50 (\$45. with Y/C membership)
Skills Day: Softball, Feb. 23.

*For players ages 14 to 16, sign-ups will be taken to see if there is enough interest to fill this division.

Volunteers are needed for both sports: league president, vice president, field commissioners, uniform/equipment commissioner, secretary, coaches, and umpires. For more information, call the Youth Center at 606-2152.

Pacific Coast Club

**\$ Your
Chance
to Win
Cash!**



**CLUB CARD
DRAWING!**

**every Friday at the
Pacific Coast Club.**

5-8 p.m.

You must be present to win.